

SITE NUMBER: WA-IV-182

ADDRESS: South Main Street, Smithsburg, MD

OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Methodist Church, access during hours of worship

BUILDING DATE: 1831

St Paul's United Methodist Church is a west-facing, horizontally massed, symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, freestanding, brick church. The focus of the building is on its Colonial Revival steeple, which is a visual landmark on the street. The brick is laid in a manner that produces a thin corbelled beltcourse, and pilasters. Some of the pilasters have been obscured due to the addition of a projecting, enclosed Colonial Revival, flat-roof portico that serves as the entrance to the church. The portico is ornamented with Tuscan pilasters which flank the double, raised-panel doors and the 14-light transom above; a frieze with the words "St. Paul's Church"; and a dentilled box cornice. Directly above the portico, in the center of the gable is a lunette. The steeple rests at the front of the building and consists of a square, frame base with an open, octagonal, arcaded belfry. This composition is capped by a dentilled cornice, a bell-shaped roof, and a ball finial. The building fenestration is comprised of single, rectangular, double-hung, nine-over-nine windows. The church cemetery is located behind the building.

The building appears to be set on lot 20, which was owned by James Hammett, according to the 1814 plat of the town. According to the Smithsburg Historical Society (SHS), the church was built in 1831. The building and its cemetery are clearly noted on the 1875 map of the town, as they are on the 1916 and 1923 Sanborns (numbered 40 Main). The portico is not noted on any of these maps

and therefore, probably postdates 1923. According to the SHS, alterations, including the addition of the portico, were made in the 1920s.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Agricultural-Industrial Transition, and falls within the Historic Period Themes of Religion; and Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julie Mueller, April 1991

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